

**Minutes of CRASC Meeting
January 12, 2000
Conte Anadromous Fish Research Center
Turners Falls, Massachusetts**

Chair Duncan McInnes, NHFG, called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m. Mr. Angelo Incerpi, VTFW, clarified that this could not be a closed-door meeting unless personnel issues were identified for discussion. Since none of the Commissioners brought personnel issues to the table, it was agreed that the public could in fact sit in on the meeting.

Agenda Items

1. Condensed Work Plan Based on the Action Plan

The Commissioners engaged in a lengthy discussion and decided that an Annual Work Plan should be developed. Mr. Mark Tisa, MAFW, volunteered to draft a model CRASC Work Plan for consideration by the Technical Committee. The Work Plan is to specifically and concisely describe what CRASC and its member agencies will work on in the year 2000. The actions listed in the Work Plan will be evaluated annually to determine what has been successfully accomplished. The Accomplishment Report will also describe reasons why certain tasks are not accomplished. The thinking is that this will lend accountability to the program and provide a clear public-friendly document that can be shared with legislators. It will also provide the Commission with a tool to gage, prioritize and redirect efforts to ensure that objectives identified in the Strategic Plan are accomplished.

Given the model developed, the Technical Committee members were charged with filling in the blanks for their agencies. The Coordinator was charged with combining the individual Work Plans into a Commission Work Plan by the next Technical Committee meeting.

2. CRASC Progress Report

It was agreed that there is a need to demonstrate accountability and to maintain and develop increased public support. To date, little effort has been made by the Commission toward sharing information on the program with the public.

The Commissioners reviewed a draft Progress Report developed by the Connecticut River Coordinator's Office. The format of the draft was accepted. However, the draft does not capture annual progress and is lacking a direct tie to the Work Plan. The Progress Report should be made available in early January of every calendar year.

Funding the cost of a color, glossy Progress Report was discussed. Chair McInnes offered to have NHFG I&R staff develop a cost estimate based on the draft Progress Report. One funding option is to seek support from non-profit partners. Another funding option is to expand the Federal Aid project to include funds for printing an Annual Progress Report. The Coordinator was charged with exploring the feasibility of the Federal Aid option.

Mr. Incerpi requested that an additional name be added to the draft Progress Report letter on page 2: Edward F. Kehoe. Mr. Kehoe was instrumental in getting the land for the White River NFH.

It was agreed that the agency pie diagrams in the financial report would be eliminated. The agency Technical Committee representatives were charged with providing accurate information on agency spending in their last fiscal year to the Coordinator.

Mr. Jay McMenemy pointed out that when the draft Progress Report and brochure are revised, his address and phone had changed. Furthermore, there has been a change in Commissioners.

The Coordinator was charged with making revisions once the accomplishment reporting model is in-hand.

3. CRASC General Brochure

Mr. Incerpi pointed out that the brochure will have a longer life span than the progress report. He expressed concern that the brochure does not carry the most important messages about salmon (salmon were extinct, salmon in the CT R are in the southern most part of the salmon's range, why so few salmon return, how we are recreating a new genetic strain, salmon are indicator species, the immensity of the effort is amazing...the problems salmon face and the hurdles we need to overcome). He said that it doesn't matter where the dams are or who CRASC is. He said that the salmon program is in trouble because people don't understand what we are doing. CRASC and the program are suffering from a lack of public recognition. CRASC can't afford not to do outreach.

Mr. Steve Gephard and Ms. Cori Rose both wanted to see the salmon program linked to other migratory fish as part of a bigger picture.

All agreed that the names and phone numbers of the Commissioners could be eliminated especially if they are available on the website. Then the space in the brochure could be used to tell the compelling story of the salmon so that people can understand what we are doing.

The Coordinator was charged with developing draft text for this purpose. Mr. Bob Jones agreed to provide the Coordinator with some text as well. This revision will be reviewed by the CRASC and ultimately included in future revisions.

4. Selection of Littleton Fish Forum Date:

The tentative date for this meeting is scheduled for March 29, 2000.

5. Selection of Next CRASC Meeting Date:

The next CRASC meeting date is scheduled for March 30, 2000.

CRASC Meeting Attendance

Janice Rowan	USFWS
Steve Gephard	CTDEP/Fisheries
Jay McMenemy	VTFW
Duncan McInnes	NHFG
Caleb Slater	MAFW
Sherry Morgan	USFWS
Robert A. Jones	CT Public Representative
Charles Thoits III	NH Public Representative
Cori Rose	NMFS
Jon Rittgers	NMFS
Angie Incerpi	VTFW
Ken Sprankle	NHFG
John Warner	USFWS
Mark Tisa	MAFW
Steve Roy	USFS